

STATINTL

CIA Partially Backs Dodd on German Trip

WASHINGTON, July 26 (UPI).—The Central Intelligence Agency has volunteered support of part of Sen. Thomas J. Dodd's explanation of a controversial trip the Connecticut Democrat made to West Germany in April, 1964, it was learned Tuesday.

The Senate Ethics Committee made public a letter from CIA Director Richard Helms saying that Dodd sought information on Soviet terror and espionage operations before and after the trip.

TRIP IS KEY ISSUE

Dodd has testified he flew to Germany in behalf of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee to interview Bogdan Stashynsky, a jailed Soviet defector and confessed assassin.

He denied that the purpose of the trip, as charged by his former aides, was to help publicist Julius Klein retain valuable contracts with West German business interests.

The trip is a crucial element in the Ethics Committee's investigation of misconduct charges against Dodd.

It now is gathering material

for later hearings on allegations of an improper use of campaign contributions and other financial questions.

ASKS CONFIRMATION

Helms' letter, an unusual departure from the CIA's tradition of strict secrecy and aversion to publicity, confirmed Dodd's interest in Stashynsky but did not say whether this was the primary reason for the Senator's trip.

Helms wrote Sen. John C. Stennis (D., Miss.), the committee chairman, that Dodd had asked the CIA to "confirm the fact of his contacts with this agency in obtaining information on Soviet murders, assassinations and kidnappings."

Stennis told newsmen the letter, dated July 14, "was handed to me by a representative of the CIA, who stated it was in response to inquiries made by Sen. Dodd."